

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole comprising a transgene that is a reporter gene specifically expressed in a functional lymphatic vessel system of said *Xenopus* tadpole and that visualizes said lymphatic vessel system, said lymphatic vessel system comprising lymphatic vessels, lymphatic sacs and a lymphatic heart.

Claim 2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method to produce a transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole according to claim 1 comprising introducing a vector comprising a transgene under control of a promoter specifically expressed in the lymphatic vascular system into cells of a *Xenopus* tadpole.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3 wherein said promoter is selected from the list comprising a Podoplanin promoter, a Prox-1 promoter, a VEGFR-3 promoter and a LYVE-1 promoter.

5. (Previously Presented) A method for visualizing the lymphatic vessel system in a *Xenopus* tadpole comprising generating a transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole comprising a reporter gene that is specifically expressed in the lymphatic vessel system.

6. (Previously Presented) A method to identify a compound capable of modulating lymphatic vessel development in a transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole according to claim 1 comprising the steps:

- a) contacting said transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole with a test compound,
- b) comparing the lymphatic vessel system in said transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole contacted with said test compound with the lymphatic vessel system of a transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole that was not contacted with said test compound and,
- c) determining the effect of said test compound on lymphatic vessel development, such that if lymphatic vessel development in the transgenic *Xenopus* contacted with said test compound is different from the lymphatic vessel development in the transgenic *Xenopus* tadpole that was not contacted with said test compound, said compound is a modulator of the lymphatic vessel system.